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SHAKESPEARE, THE BIBLE AND RELIGION

Rev. J. F. Cobb Says Great Play Writer Turned to Bible for His Most Beautiful Passages.

At the Church of the Good Shepherd, Universalist, Rev. Joseph F. Cobb preached on the subject, Shakespeare, The Bible and Religion. "The text was Psalm 119:106, Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Just at this time much is being said and written about the great play-writer, William Shakespeare, whom Leigh Hunt calls a divine human creature, divine poet and divine philosopher, said Mr. Cobb. Shakespeare's name is, at this time of the 300th anniversary of his death, very prominent

and on the lips of many. Hamilton Wright Mable said: "Shakespeare was born in Stratford-on-Avon. There he died, and there also he is buried, but the end of Shakespeare is not yet, and so far as can be seen, there never will be an ending of that tremendous force which we call Shakespeare."

One who has made a study of the writings of this man tells us that there is scarcely a modern problem which is not embraced in his thought or upon which his genius has not shined. His plays and sonnets are a commentary on the political institutions, economic conditions and public affairs of his times; but they are also a highly polished mirror showing the workings of those great human passions which are constantly rushing upon the shore as waves rush upon the shore.

"From his knowledge of men and

times he drew pictures of life and through parable and fiction distilled justice and equity, he gave praise to mercy and faultlessly portrayed womanhood."

A fact that we ought to note, as we think of him who said "one touch of nature make the whole world kin," as we think of the man and his writings, is that he made much use of the Bible.

He pointed out its moral and religious value. We read in the Bible: "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man that thou visitest him?" For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet."

Shakespeare takes this thought and puts it in this setting: "What a piece

SHAKESPEARE A MAN SENT FROM GOD

Rev. S. H. Howe, D. D., Chooses Famous Playwright as Theme of Sermon.

At Park Congregational church on Sunday morning Rev. Samuel H. Howe, D. D., pastor, preached on Shakespeare in connection with the Centenary of the great playwright. Dr. Howe's sermon was most eloquent and held the close attention of all the congregation. His text was taken from John 1:6: There was a man sent from God and in part Dr. Howe spoke as follows:

Caroline has said: "When God sends a great man into the world, he does so to take heed," and well we may, for he will change the future of the world. Shakespeare has stamped his influence upon the thinking and conduct of mankind. God's greatest gift is a visioned man who with divining rod makes for us a new world, holds the mirror up to nature, and reflects the real world which unvisioned men do not see.

Shakespeare's mind was the roomiest, vastest, the most nearly suggestive of infinitude of all the intellects of the world.

The myriad minded man he was. The whole world was photographed in his soul. All human emotions, all types of men, all classes move across his pages.

1. The first characteristic was universality. The widest cosmopolitanism, all human emotions, all types of character, all periods, classes, modes, and modern. He has won his constituency of readers from all grades of intellectual endowment. The patrician, the plebeian, the intellectual, Titians of the race, the cultured, the uncultured. He spoke the language of the wise and the rude dialect of the poor, saw life through the eyes of the virtuous and the vicious.

His works are the revelations of his personality. He wrought of his personality. He wrought of himself into the characters he delineates. His refinement, his sense of justice, his virtues, his versatility, his love of the beautiful, his bubbling merriment, his inexhaustible geniality are written out in the characters he creates and sends to the footlights. We thus know more about the personality of Shakespeare than of any other author in history. We do not miss the raw material for the biographer. We have the full length portrait in the great dramas.

3. His originality: Not that he created a new thought world. Not that he originated every seed plot of his plays. Not that he adheres to the strict historical chronology. Not that he did not use other men's thinking, but how he made the old new; he re-created the old skeletons till they stood up a great army. He saw tragedy and comedy where other eyes saw nothing. "The whole street breaks into a mass of quakers when Shakespeare passes by." He made dead things live and also things new.

4. His intensity: Perhaps Dante in this surpasses him, but his words scorch and burn themselves into the written page and into the brain and heart of the reader. His engraver's tool makes inerasable indentures. His pictures are unfading. Some people find nothing to admire. Voltaire and Darwin, a present day university president resent his spell, but a Goethe tells us how in reading him he felt he was looking into the book of fate with the hurricane tossing its leaves to and fro.

5. His lofty moral teachings: Not since Juvenal among Pagan writers and St. Paul among Christian thinkers has evil been so depicted, challenged and condemned as in Shakespeare's dramas. He shows us all the inferno. He never lets evil men escape. His detectives of the moral order like Hamlet, Othello, Macbeth, Iago, his villains are caught and caged. No base man ever gets into the earthly paradise of living and into the heavenly one not at all. If you lose your way, Paul's and your John Calvin's doctrine of depravity, Shakespeare's Mabeaths leads you to the right path. If you doubt the historical figures give it. If you doubt the historical figures give it. If you doubt the historical figures give it.

If he satirizes human follies he never sneers at human frailty. He never strikes at the things men venerate. He does not depict the saint. There are no saints in his dramas. Shakespeare was too reverent toward God and toward Christ who "suffered for our salvation on the cruel tree" to put them there, but his spirit was reverent, as he worked out the prob-

of work is man—how noble in reason, how infinite in faculties! In form and moving, how express and admirable; in action, how like an angel; in apprehension how like a God."

The Value of the Bible. From the fact that the great immortal Shakespeare turned to the Bible for his most beautiful passages and thought one would derive a lesson; that the Bible is the One Book in the world that is worthy to be called The Book. No book has had such a determining factor in the history of so many nations. It is the Book that has had such an influence on poets, artists, artisans as no other book.

It is the Book from which all writers draw for inspiration and authority. No book has so many intelligent advocates, and no book has such a general consideration among all classes. The value of the Bible is seen in its usefulness. Many reasons might be cited why people should study the Bible.

As Shakespeare and other writers and thinkers and scholars, and also men and women in humble life have found the Bible valuable, a great help, not alone from the literary point of view, but for its intrinsic value, so should each and all find the Bible a dynamo of religion.

The prophets of universal peace, and of universal brotherhood built into the structure of society, appeal to this sacred pages for authority and inspiration.

The Christian religion, which is the practice of the law of love as set forth in the Holy Scriptures, is a dynamic force in the world today. We have spoken of the Bible because it is the great fountain of revelation of life from which we may draw inspiration, help, comfort, peace and joy. We have spoken of religion as it is the manifestation of the fact that one has drawn upon the source of all life and is endeavoring to practice its precepts. We speak of Shakespeare as he has been a moralist whose works are living after him and seem to be destined to live and show men the value of morality. We need to remember that "no spirit shines in its own light and none can transmit more light than it has received."

As Shakespeare drank from high sources we behold in him a prophet. May we also acquaint ourselves with the Bible and the life it sets before us.

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SENATOR LANDERS IS DELEGATE AT LARGE

Summer Resident at Pequot Will Attend National Democratic Convention.

Former State Senator George M. Landers of New Britain, who has summer residence at the Pequot, will attend the national democratic convention in St. Louis, June 13 in place of Attorney David E. Fitzgerald as a delegate-at-large. Attorney Fitzgerald is unable to attend the convention and has named Senator Landers as his substitute.

Attorney Fitzgerald was elected one of the four delegate-at-large at the state convention recently and in being named by Mr. Fitzgerald as his substitute, Senator Landers will attend the convention as one of the big four. The other three delegates-at-large are Willie O. Burr of Hartford, William Kennedy of Naugatuck and Charles D. Lockwood of Stamford.

Honors for Norwich Young Ladies.

The Catholic Transcript says: Connecticut students at New Rochelle College have recently come into prominence, having been elected to

several offices by their classmates.

Miss Mary E. Mahoney, of Norwich, who was recently elected vice president of the class of '16 for the coming year, has been chosen a member of the staff of the New Rochelle Quarterly. Miss Jane D. Mahoney retains during the coming year membership on the student advisory board and has been re-elected consultant of the Blessed Virgin Sodality. The Misses Mahoney are graduates of Mt. St. Joseph Seminary.

GAVE OVERSEERS BANQUET AT GOLF CLUB

James A. Atwood Leaves Employment of Penomah Co. to Accept Position in Providence.

The overseers of the Penomah mills were tendered a banquet at the Norwich Golf club Friday evening by James A. Atwood who left the employ of the company Saturday and will go with the Wauregan company with offices in Providence.

Covers were laid for 21 on the broad piazza of the club and each diner received a violet boutonniere. Frank Racine and Henry LaFontaine furnished a musical program. The following menu was served:

Clam Broth with Whipped Cream
Olives and Radishes
Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Green Peas
Pineapple Ice Cream
Assorted Cookies
Demi-Tasse
Cigars
Cigarettes

Work Among Indians.

The Woman's Home Missionary society had charge of the Thursday At-

ternoon club at Uncasville. Several papers were read describing the work that is being done by the society among the Indians and in the south and west. A delegate was appointed to go to the twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Woman's Home Missionary society to be held in Danielson, June 2. Refreshments were served and a social hour was enjoyed.

The Yantic Sold to New Haven Man. Albert Widmann of New Haven has purchased the gasoline screw boat Yantic which formerly hailed from Norwich and the boat has been enrolled in the New Haven customs house. The Yantic is 57 feet long. She is to be used on the ferry service across the harbor at New Haven. The Yantic was operated between this city New London and Ocean Beach.

To Address Masons at Yantic. Rev. Philip M. Kerridge, pastor of St. James' Episcopal church in New London, will address the Knights Templars of Columbian commandery in the Yantic Episcopal church next Thursday night which is Ascension Thursday. A delegation from Palestine commandery from New London will attend.

Cadets Held Marching Drill.

The Father Matthew Cadets held marching drill in St. Mary's T. A. B. hall on Sunday afternoon under the direction of Drillmaster John Crawford. The cadets are to parade in the Memorial Day procession. A brief business session was held previous to the drill.

Norfolk.—It is expected that the links of the Norfolk Downs will be ready for use by Memorial day.

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